

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 40NEWSWEEK  
17 March 1980

## From the KGB to the FBI

To their neighbors in New York's Westchester County, Rudolph and Inga Herrmann were East European émigrés who traveled frequently and asked a lot of questions about American politics. He was a successful free-lance photographer, she a friendly homemaker who helped a crippled neighborhood boy. Last fall, the Herrmanns suddenly moved away. Last week, their neighbors found out why. Sitting behind a frosted screen at a Washington press conference, his voice disguised electronically, Herrmann admitted that he was a longtime spy for the Soviet Union—and, for the last several years, a double agent for the U.S.

Most KGB agents pose as diplomats and operate under diplomatic cover. But, as FBI officials told it, Herrmann was an "illegal" agent posing as an ordinary citizen. "I tried to blend in with the local community," Herrmann said. All the while, however, he received weekly coded instructions from Moscow on a short-wave radio at his home. His assignments seemed tame. He was to study American political attitudes, get close to a Presidential candidate if he could and collect messages from other KGB agents. But Herrmann's real function, the FBI said, was as a "sleeper" agent. If U.S.-Soviet diplomatic ties were severed and "legal" operatives ordered home, the unassuming Westchester photographer was to help run KGB spy operations in the U.S.

**New Identity:** Federal agents picked up Herrmann's trail several years ago because of a blunder by one of his KGB contacts. They offered him a choice: either face prosecution or turn double agent. Herrmann turned, supplied details about Soviet communications methods and helped identify other KGB oper-



Boynton unveils Herrmann: A 'sleeper' comes out of the cold

atives in the U.S.—several of whom were quietly expelled last year. FBI officials decided to bring Herrmann out of the cold last fall, when the KGB ordered his 21-year-old son to return to Moscow for advanced espionage training. Now, Herrmann and his family will be relocated and given new identities. "He's a very talented man," said FBI spokesman Homer Boynton. "Quite possibly, he can find his way into the mainstream of American life."